Employment of Mahomedans in Public Service.

28. **MR. P. HABEEB MAHOMED** (*Nominated*): (*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state what their object was in issuing circulars and orders regarding the appointment of Mahomedans and other educationally backward communities in the State service?

(*b*) Are the Government aware to what extent their object has been attained during the past few years?

(*c*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether they have enquired how far the Heads of Departments were following the orders referred to above?

(*d*) If so, will the Government be pleased to state the result of their enquiry?

(*e*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether these circulars and orders are still in force?

MR. K. NARAYANAN PANDALAY (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*): (*a*) The object of Government was that, consistently with efficiency, qualifications, etc., consideration should be shown to members of communities such as Ezhava, Mahomedan, etc., which are backward in education.

(*b*) From the figures furnished by the Heads of Departments, Government note that there has not been indifference to the claims of the various communities.

(*c*) Enquiries have been made.

(*d*) The result of their enquiry is embodied in G. O. No. R. Dis. 458 of 25, dated the 27th April, 1925, reviewing the returns of appointments for the years 1098 and 1099.

(*e*) The circulars and orders are still in force.

MR. P. HABEEB MAHOMED (*Nominated*): Are the Government aware that the just claims of a few that applied for appointments under the Government are being systematically overlooked by some officers?

MR. K. NARAYANAN PANDALAY (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*): Government are not aware.

MR. P. HABEEB MAHOMED (*Nominated*): Will the Government be pleased to state whether qualifications, efficiency and communal considerations are the only considerations that weigh with the Government in making selections for appointments?

MR. K. NARAYANAN PANDALAY (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*): Generally, these are the main considerations.

MR. P. HABEEB MAHOMED (*Nominated*): Will the Government be pleased to consider the desirability of devising some other effective means whereby the interests of minor communities may be effectively safeguarded?

MR. K. NARAYANAN PANDALAY (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*): Government have issued the necessary instructions in the matter and they are watching whether the Heads of Departments and offices are following the instructions.

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MR. P. HABEEB MAHOMED (*Nominated*) : Has it ever been brought to the notice of the Government that, in the past few years, some officers systematically overlooked the claims of certain Mahomedan applicants ?

MR. K. NARAYANAN PANDALAY (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*) : No. Government called for statistics and on examination found that in some departments, a larger percentage of the members of the backward, communities could have been appointed, and explanations from the Heads of those Departments were also called for.

MR. P. HABEEB MAHOMED (*Nominated*) : Do the Government think it desirable to make periodical enquiries as to how far the Heads of Departments are following the orders of Government ?

MR. K. NARAYANAN PANDALAY (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*) : The Government have called for the submission of quarterly returns of appointments from Heads of Departments.

MR. P. HABEEB MAHOMED (*Nominated*) : But do the Government consider it desirable to make such enquiries at regular intervals ?

MR. K. NARAYANAN PANDALAY (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*) : Yes. Whenever it is found necessary, the Government will enquire.

MR. P. HABEEB MAHOMED (*Nominated*) : Are the Government aware that, so far as Mahomedan applicants are concerned, the circulars and orders as they exist now are of no practical effect ?

MR. K. NARAYANAN PANDALAY (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*) : No; the Government are not aware.

MR. P. HABEEB MAHOMED (*Nominated*) : Will the Government be pleased to issue instructions either to enforce them strictly or to devise some other means in their place ?

MR. K. NARAYANAN PANDALAY (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*) : The Government are now not satisfied that those instructions are disobeyed. In particular departments, where they found that a larger percentage could have been appointed, they have called for an explanation.

Unemployment among Educated Classes.

29. **MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI** (*Commerce and Industry, South*) :

(*a*) Are the Government aware that the unemployment of the educated classes is assuming serious dimensions ?

(*b*) If so, will the Government be pleased to state in what ways they intend tackling the question ?

MR. K. NARAYANAN PANDALAY (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*) :

(*a*) The answer is in the affirmative.

(*b*) No immediate remedy is available. Many factors, spread over a long term of years, have led up to the present situation. The process of amelioration must of necessity be slow, in that the outlook of a whole people has to be changed. The Government, fully realising their responsibility for assistance in the matter, have the whole question under their anxious consideration.

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